



UPSC – CSE

Civil Services Examinations

Union Public Service Commission

General Studies

Paper I – Volume - 4

WORLD HISTORY AND WORLD
GEOGRAPHY (MAPPING)



G.S. PAPER – 1 VOLUME – 4

WORLD HISTORY

S.No.	Chapter Name	Page No.
1.	Feudalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Feature of Feudalism • Manorialism • Decline of Feudalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Causes • Renaissance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meaning ○ Factors for the rise of Renaissance ○ Italy as the birthplace of Renaissance ○ Features of Renaissance ○ Impact ○ Importance of Renaissance 	1
2.	Age of Enlightenment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes for the Rise of Enlightenment • Characteristics of Enlightenment • Role played by thinkers and philosophers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) ○ Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) ○ Continuity and difference b/w Enlightenment and Renaissance • Impacts • The End of the Enlightenment 	9
3.	American Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of events led to the American Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Political Structure in Colonies ○ Seven-year War or French and Indian War ○ First Continental Congress ○ Second Continental Congress • Causes of the American War of Independence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Political causes of the American Revolution ○ Economic causes of the American Revolution ○ Ideological causes of the American Revolution • Reason for American success. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Americans Create a Republic ○ A Weak National Government ○ A New Constitution ○ The Federal System ○ The Bill of Rights • Impact of American Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Impact on other parts of the World • American Civil War(1861-1865) • Causes of the Civil War • Course of the American Civil War 	13

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance of the American Civil War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Role of Abraham Lincoln 	
4.	French Revolution	21
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background • Causes of the french revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Political factor ○ Social factors ○ Intellectual causes: Thinkers ○ Immediate factor • Stages of French revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stage 1: Revolution of 1789 (1789-1792) ○ Stage 2: French revolution begins ○ Stage 3: Declaration of Rights of Man ○ Stage 4: Reign of Terror ○ Stage V – End of the French Revolution ○ Role of women in the French Revolution • Impact of the French revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Positive impact ○ Negative Impacts ○ Impact of the french revolution on the World • Era of Napoleon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rise of Napoleon ○ Napoleon Bonaparte's reign ○ Reforms of Napoleon • Foreign policy of Napoleon • Fall of Napoleon • Evaluation of Napoleon’s rule 	
5.	Industrial Revolution	35
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origin • Why did the industrial revolution first take place in England • Technological Changes • Impact of Industrial Revolution • Industrial revolution in Germany: • Industrial revolution in USA • Industrial Revolution in Japan: • Industrial Revolution in Russia 	
6.	Russian Revolution	46
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background • Causes of the Russian revolution of 1917 • Positive impacts of the Russian Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Negative Impacts 	
7.	Rise of Nationalism in Europe	49
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning of Nationalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ French Revolution & The Idea of the Nation ○ The Making of Nationalism in Europe • Liberal Nationalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Conservatism After 1815 ○ The Revolutionaries ○ The Age of Revolution: 1830 – 1848 ○ Romantic imagination and National Feeling ○ Hunger, hardship and revolt 	

	○ The Revolution of the Liberals	
8.	World War 1: First World War (1914-1918)	59
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Background ● Causes of the First World War ● The Course of the War ● Consequences of First World War ● League of Nations 	
9.	Period b/w the Two World Wars	67
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World Economy over the war period: Prosperity and depression ● Great Depression of 1929 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Causes that led to Depression ○ Impact of depression ● Totalitarian Regimes: Fascism and Nazism ● Nazism and Rise of Hitler ● Rise of Nazism ● Hitler's Rise to Power ● The Nazi World Wide 	
10	World War II	76
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Causes of World War II ● Turn of events ● Why did Germany lose the war ● Results of the war ● The aftermath of World War II 	
11.	Cold War (1945-1991)	83
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reasons of Cold War ● Phases Of Cold War ● Important Events of the Cold War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Berlin Blockade 1948 ○ The Marshall Plan vs The Cominform : ○ NATO vs Warsaw Pact ○ Cuban Missile Crisis ○ Vietnam War (1960s – 1975) ○ Afghan invasion 1979 ● End of the Cold War ● Effects of Cold War 	
12.	Socialism and Communism	89
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Socialism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Characteristics of Socialist economy ○ Objectives ○ Key Principles of Socialism ○ Origin of socialism ○ Rise of Socialism ○ Merits of Socialist Ideology ○ Demerits ○ Socialism in India ● Communism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Origins of communism ○ Characteristics of communism: ○ Advantages ○ Disadvantages ● Difference between Communism and Socialism 	

13	Colonialism and Imperialism	93
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonialism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ STAGES OF COLONIALISM ○ Colonialism in Different Territories ○ Key features of Colonialism • Imperialism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rise of Imperialism ○ Motives of Imperialism ○ METHODS OF IMPERIALISM ○ Impact of Imperialism • NEW IMPERIALISM • Imperialism in America and Pacific nations 	
14	Chinese Revolution	100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background of the Chinese Civil War • Outbreak of Chinese Civil War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Second Sino-Japanese War • Resumption of Hostilities and End of the Civil War 	
15.	Arab world: Israel-Palestine Conflict	103
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background • Arab's fight against Israel (1948-49) • Israel's fight against the Arab countries (1967) • UN Charter and return of the Sinai Peninsula • Hamas and Fatah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The tension between Hamas and Fatah • Israel-Palestine conflict and US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What does Palestine want? ○ What does Israel want? ○ What makes Jerusalem so unique? • Future Aspects 	

WORLD GEOGRAPHY (MAPPING)

S.No.	Chapter Name	Page No.
1.	Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political Division• Physical Features<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Plains○ Mountains○ Plateaus○ Peninsula• Climate• Soils of Africa• Vegetation and Forests• Drainage<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rivers○ Lakes○ Other water bodies• Desert<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wildlife of Africa	108
2.	Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political Division• Physical Features<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Plains○ Mountains○ Mountain Knot○ Plateaus○ Peninsula○ Deserts• Climate of Asia• Soils• Vegetation of Asia• Drainage<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rivers of Asia○ Lakes of Asia○ Seas○ Straits• Grasslands of Asia• Wildlife of Asia	122
3.	Australia And Oceania <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political Division• AUSTRALIA• Political Division• Physical Features<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Deserts of Australia• Climate• Drainage<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rivers○ Lakes○ Straits○ Gulfs• Soils• Natural Vegetation And Forest<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Grasslands	142

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife of Australia • New Zealand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical features ○ Climate ○ Natural Vegetation ○ Soils ○ Wildlife • Island Countries in Oceania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melanesia ○ Micronesia • Polynesia 	
4.	North America	161
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical extent • Regional Division • Physical Divisions • Drainage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rivers ○ Lakes ○ Gulfs ○ Important Seas • Soils 	
5.	Europe	168
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical Extent • Physical Division • Climate • Drainage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rivers ○ Seas ○ Straits ○ Channels ○ Gulfs ○ Bays 	
6.	South America	182
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Location • Physical Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mountains ○ Plateaus ○ Lowlands ○ Deserts • Drainage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rivers ○ Lakes ○ Gulfs • Climate • Forest and Vegetation • Wild life 	
7.	Antarctica	193
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical Location • Physical division • Climate • WildLife 	

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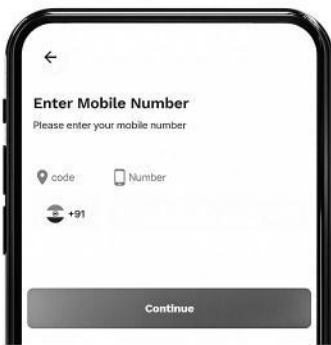
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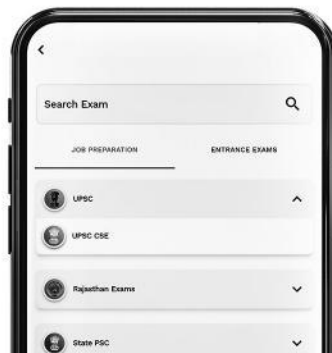
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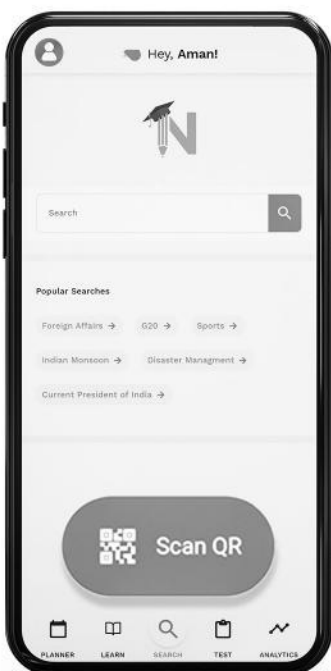
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1 CHAPTER

Feudalism



- A combination of legal and military customs in medieval Europe that flourished b/w the 9th and 14th centuries.
 - Way of structuring society around relationships derived from the holding of land in exchange for service or labor.
- A set of reciprocal legal and military obligations among the warrior nobility revolving around the three key concepts of lords, vassals, and fiefs.
- It was a hierarchical system of land use and patronage that dominated Europe b/w the 9th and 14th centuries.
- **Manors:** The agricultural Estates emerged from the division or subdivision of the monarch's kingdom.
- **Nobles: controlled manors**, who oversaw agricultural production and swore loyalty to the king.
- Despite the social inequality it produced, it provided stability to European society.

Key Feature of Feudalism

Castle

- **Castle:** Chief characteristic of feudalism.
- The feudal Lords lived in **huge castles or forts**.
- The **living house and court** of the Lord existed inside the castle
- **Stored arms, weapons, and grains inside the castle.**
- It provided **shelter to the common people during an external invasion.**

Manor

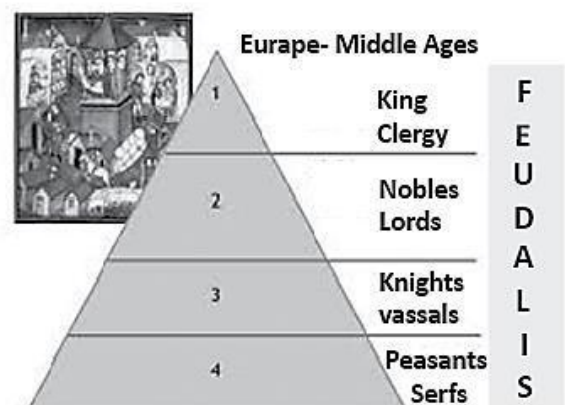
- **Manor:** The land associated with the castle.
- This was like a **small estate**.
- The **strength of a feudal Lord was known according to the possession of Manors.**

Demense

- **Demense:** The Land remaining with the feudal lord after distributing the land among his serfs.

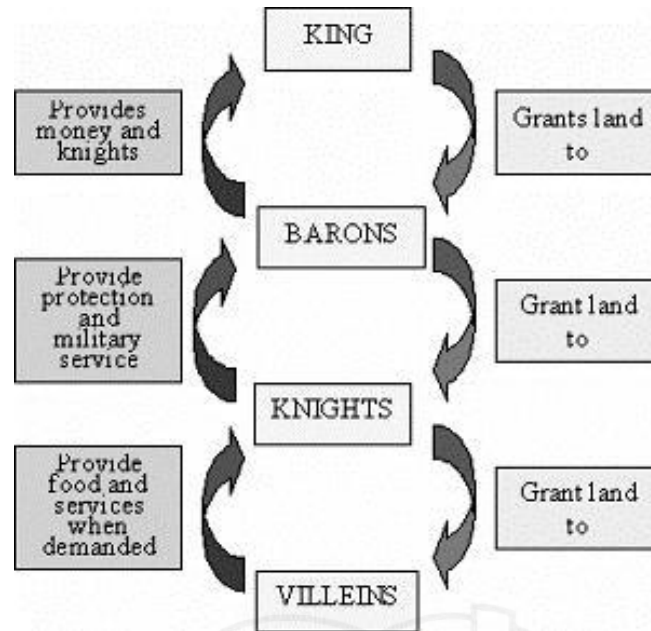
The Feudal Society: Social Structure

- The **division of society** followed a **pyramidal pattern**.
- This **society was largely agrarian**.
- The **'King' was at the top of society** and he was quite powerless.
- Below him was placed the **'Feudal Lord'**.
- Then came the **'Vassals' or 'Independent Farmers'**.
- They could **resort to independent professions and**



move from one place to another according to their own will.

- **lowest stratum** in society projected 'Serfs'.



The Knight

- The knights were **heavily armored soldiers who rode on horseback.**
- Only the **wealthiest nobles could afford** to be a knight
- A Knight took an **oath to fight with the enemy and to protect the weak.**

The Rights and Duties of Feudal Lords

- Most of them were **employed in the work of the Government, army, and diplomacy.**
- Their main **duty was to save their subjects** from the invaders.
- **The Lords enjoyed certain rights too.**
- **Wardship:** A Lord became the owner of the land of a vassal who died leaving a minor son and it continued till the minor came of age.

Duty of Vassals

- **Vassals:** A person regarded as having a mutual obligation to a lord or monarch
- The vassal **had to be present in the court whenever the Lord needed.**

Ceremony of Homage

Ceremony organized to cement the bond b/w the 'Lords' as 'Vassal'.

Manorialism

- **Relationship b/w a noble and his peasants** in medieval Europe.
- **Feudalism was primarily political and military**
- **Manorialism was more economic and social.**
- **Both systems co-existed** although manorialism was an earlier development, and survived longer
- **Rural economy was arranged into mostly-self sufficient agrarian communities** called manors.
- **Noble:** Lord of the manor, controlled all the land, and gave it out to tenants in return for either labor services or payment in kind.
- **Tenants might be either free or unfree** in the latter case they were not allowed to leave the land, change jobs or move away from the manor, but they were otherwise not badly treated in the way that outright slaves would be.

- The **lord of the manor usually had judicial power over his tenants.**
- it was independent of military service

Decline of Feudalism

- **Feudalism waned by the 14th Century.**
- **Underlying reasons included political change, warfare, disease, etc.**

Causes

Feudalism contained seed of destruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feudal lords began to assert themselves too much, kings thought of bringing them under control. ● Money from the middle classes, tradesmen, and businessmen, along with the discovery of gunpowder and weaponry, aided kings in subduing lords and reducing their reliance on them.
Growth of Trade and Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The liberation of the serfs due to enormous growth in trade and commerce ● New cities and towns grew which provided new opportunities for work. ● The serfs got an opportunity to free themselves of the feudal lords.
Crusades or Holy war	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opened up trade ● Feudal lords lost their lives. ● Gunpowder: Undermined importance of feudal castles.
The Black death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bacterial infection known as the Black Death claimed at least a third of Western Europe's population.
Political Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12th-century reforms of Henry II expanded the legal rights of a person facing trial. ● Gradual Developments made the concept of agricultural servitude appear inexcusable.
Social Unrest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By the 1350s, war, and disease had reduced Europe's population to the point that peasant labor had become quite valuable. ● Unable to survive in these circumstances, Europe's peasants revolted.

Renaissance

- The **Renaissance marked the transition from the middle age to the modern age,** putting an end to the medieval age.
- In the **15th century, A.D.** Europeans developed a **new form of literature, art, architecture, and culture i.e. renaissance.**
- Systematically **Renaissance expanded the horizon of human knowledge** which was reflected in various fields including art, literature, and science.



Meaning

- French term **meaning rebirth or revival.**
- **Indicates changes that took place in almost every field** of human interests.
- Developed an **enquiring spirit and scientific outlook among the Europeans.**

- **Challenged the medieval religious setup.**
 - Against the **Orthodox Church and the abuses of the pope.**
- Gave **birth to a new religious order** i.e. Protestantism.
- Developed their keen **interest in the original works of Plato, Aristotle, and others.**
- Developed the **spirit of inquiry and freedom of thought**
- Developed with a **small group of educated people in Italy spread to France, Germany, and England, etc.**
- Often **described as a bridge b/w the medieval period and the modern times** in Europe

Factors for the rise of Renaissance

Downfall of Feudalism

- **Development of trade and commerce** caused inflation which **greatly benefited the craftsmen, merchants, and cultivators.**
- **Feudal lords were compelled to sell land**
 - Due to non-payment of debts
 - Blow to feudalism and manorialism
- Contributed to the **growth of individualism** and fostered the cause of the Renaissance.

Impacts of crusades

- Many **religious wars b/w the Christians and Muslims** in the 11th and 14th centuries.
 - **Western scholars came in contact with the East which was more civilized and polished.**
- **New ideas and scientific orientations** greatly **enriched the western mind** to give place to the Renaissance.

Downfall in the influence of church

- **Strong monarchs challenged** the temporal power of the **Church.**
- **1296 A.D:** King Phillip IV of France got the **pope arrested and made him a prisoner.**
 - **A serious blow to the power and prestige of the pope.**
- **People now gave importance to the present** rather than the future.

Contribution of progressive rulers and nobles

- Some **progressive rulers, popes, and nobles adopted measures to boost the ushering of the Renaissance.**
- **Certain kings, popes, and nobles patronized literary men, artists, and scientists** and thereby contributed to the Renaissance.

Geographical discovery

- Geographical voyage was a **potent factor**
- **Invention of the mariner's compass** encouraged sea adventurers.
- **Discovery of telescopes:** started the study of astronomy.
- Contributed To the **weakening of the authority of the ecclesiastical system.**

Economic prosperity

- Remarkable **progress in trade and commerce** during the 12th and 13th centuries.
- The **wealthy class of traders, bankers, and manufacturers** emerged

- as **Patronized artists and scholars.**
- Provided **security and protection to the artists.**
 - **Encouraged them to produce outstanding works**
 - Helped in the **emergence of a renaissance.**

The invention of the Printing press

- **1454:** Printing machines **printed letters and printed books.**
 - **Books** could be **published very easily within a short span of time.**
- **People could easily get books** and learn many things.

Fall of Constantinople

- The **main cause of the Renaissance** was the fall of Constantinople.
- For a long time, it **served as the center of education and culture.**
- **Constantinople's people taught** mathematics, history, geography, philosophy, astronomy, medicine, etc. **to the people of Italy and thus they paved the way for the Renaissance.**

Italy as the birthplace of Renaissance

- **Renaissance first began in Italy.**
- **Italians first produced masterpieces** of literature, architecture, sculpture, painting, music, and science
 - Became a **source of perennial inspiration to others in subsequent years.**

Renaissance ushered in Italy on account of number of following reasons

Past Glory of Italy

- **Italy was the centre of the glorious Roman civilization.**
- All the **historical remains and relics of the great Roman Empire lay scattered there.**
- So **Italy was an attractive seat for scholars** and artists.

The arrival of Greek Scholars

- After the **fall of Constantinople in 1453**, many **Greek scholars and thinkers migrated to Italy** with their original manuscripts and art treasures.
 - **Instilled a spirit of inquiry** among the people of Italy.
 - **Encouraged Italians to study classics.**

Economic prosperity

- **Italy had enormous wealth** as a result of trade.
- **Florence: Flourishing cities of Italy**, became a great center of scholars.

Italian contact with Asia

- **Crusade established new contact with Asia.**
- **Broadened their vision and reoriented their lifestyle.**
- Provided an **impetus to the Renaissance.**

Features of Renaissance

Humanism	Scholars emphasized the worth of man and tried to project the individual as a free agent.
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	Renaissance spirit by Leon Battista Alberti, “men can do all things if they will”.
Classicism	<p>People adopted classical art forms.</p> <p>Almost all fine arts like architecture, sculpture, music, painting, etc. made tremendous progress during this period.</p> <p>Some prominent artists- Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Angelo, Raphael, Titan, etc.</p>
Free culture	<p>Enabled culture and learning to free people from ecclesiastical tutelage.</p> <p>Contemporary society witnessed the growth of large secular literature.</p> <p>Scholars and artists openly revolted against the ecclesiastical monopoly over culture.</p>
Natural and experimental science	<p>It was the age of new discoveries and all-around development.</p> <p>Copernicus of Poland challenged the Geo-centric theory i.e. the earth was the center of the solar system.</p> <p>Proved the Helio-centric theory i.e. the sun is static and the earth moves around the sun.</p>

Impact

Literature

- **Literature took its birth in Italy.**
- **The first notable work:** “Dante’s Divine Comedy” written in Italian.
- **Petrarch: Criticised medieval thought and glorified the secular or worldly interest of life and humanism.**
- **Decameron book:** By Boccaccio **Denounced the existence of god** bringing a revolutionary change in the Christian world.
- **Machiavelli wrote- “The Prince”.**
- **England:** Thomas Mores’ “Utopia”, Milton’s “Paradise Lost” and “Paradise Regained” were very famous
- **William Shakespeare Playwright of England** became famous for his plays like “Julius Caesar”, “Othello”, “Macbeth”, “As you like it”, “Romeo and Juliet”, “Hamlet”, “Merchants’ of Venice, king lear, MidSummer Night's Dream, “The Tempest” etc.
- Martin Luther **translated the Bible into the German language.**

Art

- **Earlier Artists was bound to draw pictures of monks, bishops, priests.**
- Renaissance artists developed a **growing interest in classical civilization.**
- The **great transformation was seen in European art.**
- It **became more secular** in the spirit in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Architecture

- **Great masterpieces of Greeks and Romans** were discovered and imitated by the Italian and other European artists.
- **Builders of the Renaissance age** constructed many churches, palaces, and massive **buildings in the Greek and Roman style.**
- **Florence, an Italian city** - the nerve center of the art world.

- **"St Peter's Church of Rome"**, the cathedral of Milan, and palaces of Venice - examples of Renaissance architecture.

Sculpture

- **Lorenzo Ghiberti: Famous sculptor of Italy** during this period.
 - Carved the **bronze doors** of the **church in Florence** which was famous for its **exquisite beauty**.
- **Another Italian sculptor: Donatello.**
 - **Realistic statue of St. George and St. Mark.**
- **Michelangelo's huge marble statue "David"** at Florence speaks of his greatness as a sculptor.
 - Also made the grand statue of **"Moses"**, **"Basilica of St. Peter"** at Rome.

Painting

- **Leonardo da Vinci:** Hidden expression in his **paintings made them attractive in his famous painting of "Mona Lisa"**.
 - **"The Last Supper"**, **"The Virgin of the Rock"** and **"The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne"** are his other paintings.
- **Michaelangelo's Creation of Adam** and **The Last Judgment**.
- **Raphael's paintings** portray an air of **calmness and beauty**.
 - Sistine **Madonna's painting** made him a **world-famous painter**.
- Renaissance **painting bore the stamp of originality** in every aspect.

Fine Arts

- **Fine Arts bloomed. Eg: Music.**
- **Italy was freed from clutches of medieval songs.**
- The **use of piano and violin** made the song sweeter.
- **Palestrina** was a great singer, musician, and master composer of new songs.
- In churches, **old songs were discarded** and **new songs were incorporated** in prayer.

Science

- The **development in astronomy, medicine, and other aspects** of science made this age distinct.

Physics

- **Copernicus of Poland:** Book **"On the Revolution of the Celestial Bodies"**.
 - Said **sun is static and earth and other planets revolve around it**.
 - **Contrary to the medieval belief** that earth was the center of the universe.
 - **Christian priests vehemently criticized Copernicus.**
- **View of Copernicus supported by German scientist John Kepler**
- **Sir Isaac Newton of England:** Book **Principia**
 - Stated about the **Law of Gravitation**.

Astronomy

- **Galileo of Italy: Invented Telescope** and proved the **theory of Copernicus**.
- **Proved Milky Way** consists of stars.
- **Pendulum theory** helped later on in inventing clocks.

Chemistry

- **Cordus** made ether from **sulphuric acid and alcohol** which was another **astonishment of science**
- **Holdmont: Discovery of "Carbon Dioxide" gas.**

Anatomy

- **Vesalius:** A medical scientist, described various parts of the human body.

Medicine

- **William Harvey of England:** Discovered the “**process of blood circulation**”.
- **Renaissance** led to the **growth of humanism** and increased the desire in men to know more and more.

Importance of Renaissance

New form of education

- Underwent great **transformation**.
- The **base of education** was greatly widened.
- Emphasis on **reason and critical thinking**.

Scientific outlook

- Development of the **scientific outlook encouraged new discoveries** and inventions.
- **People became critical of the superstitions** and meaningless **rituals of Church**

Enriched Vernacular literature

- Provided **impetus to vernacular literature**.
- Writers began to write in **common languages and human interests**.

New forms of Arts

- Led to new forms of **paintings, sculpture, architecture, music, etc.**
- **Rendered valuable service to the growth of fine arts.**

The process of colonialism

- Contributed to the **progress of human civilization**.
- **Paved the way for colonialism.**
- The invention of **Mariner’s Compass** provided the **impetus to navigation**.

Evolution of strong monarchy

- Dealt serious **blow to the authority of the Church and the feudal system**.
- **Monarchy:** Established **peace, security, and political stability** in their respective nations.

Prelude to reformation

- Paved the **way for reformation movement**.
 - **Stagnation** gave place to progress
 - **Intellectual activity replaced unscientific questioning.**
 - It **challenged the old authority**.
- The new **scientific spirit, the spirit of inquiry**, observation, and experiment encouraged the people to go ahead.
- They also **questioned the authority of the Church**.
- All these **factors made reformation inevitable**.

2 CHAPTER

Age of Enlightenment



- It was an **intellectual, philosophical, cultural, and social movement**.
- **Spread:** Throughout **Europe** (mainly Western Europe) during **17th - 18th centuries**.
- Aka **Age of Enlightenment or the Age of Reason**.
- Represented a **departure from the Middle Ages of Europe**.
- Many considered **Enlightenment as, "an age of light replacing an age of darkness"**.
- Several ideas dominated **Enlightenment: Rationalism, Empiricism, Progressivism, and Cosmopolitanism**

Causes for the Rise of Enlightenment

- **Era of re-birth: New ideas** in art, science, politics, literature, etc.,
- **Focus on humanity** rather than divinity through the art of Da Vinci, Raphael, etc.,
- **Scientific revolutions** questioned the blind faith
- **Rise of national consciousness** through the development of local languages
- **Thirty Years' War (1618 to 1648):** Compelled **German writers to pen harsh criticisms** regarding the ideas of nationalism and warfare.
- **Renaissance:** Gave rise to **secular ideas** that helped **spawned the scientific revolution of the Enlightenment**.
- **Protestant Reformation:** Led to a **series of religious wars** that ravaged Europe for nearly a century (c.1550-1650).
- The **rise of towns** led to the **transformation of feudal monarchies** into nation-states.
- **All of these factors undermined the role of blind faith in the Church's authority** and helped unleash the age of reason.
- **Rise of working-class:** Opposed existing autocratic political system
- **Rise of middle-class**

Characteristics of Enlightenment

Reason/ Rationalism

- The **glorification of human reason**.
- The **conviction is that with the power of reason, humans could arrive at truth**, discover natural laws regulating existence, improve the world, and lead to human progress.
- **Focused on man's ability to reason**, to look past the traditions and conventions that had dominated Europe in the past, and to make decisions for himself.

Natural law /Naturalism

- **Presented scientific approach** as a **substitute for supernatural theological thoughts**.
- It was **believed that natural laws could be discovered** which govern the universe.

Humanism

- Revolves around **human well-being and welfare, human liberty, human dignity, etc.**
- **Rejects any idea or institution which restrains humans.**
- It may be **society church, absolutist monarchy, etc.**
- **Enlightenment challenged the authority of institutions** that were deeply rooted in society such as the Catholic Church.

Individualism

- It **emphasized the importance of the individual and his inborn rights.**

Relativism

- **Concept that different cultures, beliefs, ideas, and value systems had equal merit.**

Role played by thinkers and philosophers

- **Philosophers** who influenced the Enlightenment included **Bacon, Descartes, Locke, and Spinoza.**
- **Other major thinkers and philosophers:** Beccaria, Diderot, Hume, Kant, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Adam Smith, and Voltaire.
- The **philosophical movement** was **led by Voltaire and Jean-Jacques Rousseau**
- **Montesquieu** introduced the **idea of a separation of powers in a government.**
- **Francis Hutcheson** described the **utilitarian and consequentialist principles.**
- **Locke, Hobbes, and Rousseau** agreed that a **social contract is necessary** for man to live in civil society.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

- **Born:** Geneva but **settled in France.**
- **Prepared the ground for the French Revolution.**
- **Criticized the concept of private property** since it created social inequality.
- **Advocated freedom, equality, and justice for all.**
- **“Discourse on Inequality”** (1755) expanded this theme
- Questioned the assumption: **“will of the majority is always correct”**
- **Goal of government:** To **secure freedom, equality, and justice** for all within the state, regardless of the will of the majority.
- **Special emphasis on learning** by experience, and he **recommended that a child’s emotions should be educated before his reason.**
- **Wrote Book:** The Social Contract (1762)
- Committed to **individual freedom.**
- The only **good government was one that was freely formed by the people.**
- **Society needs an elected government** (democracy)
- The **community should be placed above individuals.**

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

- **Most influential philosopher of the Enlightenment.**
- **Claimed:** We can **never know objects in themselves**, but only as they appear to us.
- **‘Copernican Revolution’ in philosophy:** Knowledge is not determined by the nature of the external world of objects but rather by the nature of human rationality.

- The **approach addressed many of the problems** that philosophers had been discussing and led to the emergence of idealism in German philosophy.
- **According to Kant:** Experiences are created by human reason
- **Believed in Theory of Judgment:** Humans can only understand what is going on at the present time.
 - It is **not possible to predict the future, where humans are not involved.**
- **Kant's Ethical Theory:** Evil cannot produce happiness. Good qualities are human nature.
- **Kant's famous disciples:** Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel, were all great philosophers in their own right.

Continuity and difference b/w Enlightenment and Renaissance

- **Areas of continuity**
 - **Separation of philosophy and theology continued.**
 - A **similar appeal to the power of reason** and experience rather than authority.
 - The **gradual spread of education, learning, and reading.**
- **Areas of difference**

Renaissance	Enlightenment
Aimed to revive classical ideas.	Aimed at progressing beyond what had been achieved in the past.
A cultural change that affected certain strata of society	Affected the daily lives of society as a whole, including ordinary, simple people.
Dominated by the arts and humanities	Dominated by science and technology.

Impacts

- Resulted in **numerous books, essays, inventions, scientific discoveries, laws, wars, and revolutions.**
- **American and French Revolutions** were directly inspired by these ideals.
- **Thomas Jefferson** closely followed **European ideas** and later **incorporated some of these ideas into the Declaration of Independence (1776).**
- **Ideals were incorporated into the United States Constitution in 1787.**
- **Religious (and anti-religious) innovation started,** as Christians sought to reposition their faith along rational lines.
- **French Revolution of 1789: Culmination of the Enlightenment vision**
 - **Throwing out the old authorities to remake society along rational lines,**
- **Goal of egalitarianism** attracted the admiration of the early feminist **Mary Wollstonecraft.**
 - **Argued for a society based on reason** and that woman as well as men should be treated as rational beings.

The End of the Enlightenment

- **Enlightenment fell victim to competing ideas from several sources.**
- **Romanticism was more appealing to less-educated common people** and **pulled them away from the empirical scientific ideas** of earlier Enlightenment philosophers.

- **Theories of skepticism came into direct conflict with the reason-based assertions** of the Enlightenment
- **French Revolution abruptly killed Enlightenment**
 - Saw **violence as proof that masses could not be trusted** to govern themselves.
- Nonetheless, the **discoveries and theories** of the Enlightenment philosophers continued to **influence Western society for centuries.**



3 CHAPTER

American Revolution



- European explorers came from different parts of the world.
 - Eg: England, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and France
- The voyages were motivated by various reasons:
 - To build great empires: Led to the colonization of America.
 - Increased Power in Europe.
 - Prestige.
 - Wealth: Gold, silver, spices, and the raw materials of new lands.
 - Opportunities for trade.
 - Spreading the Christian Religion: Refer to Religion in the Colonies.
- Mainly undertaken by England and France and to a minor extent by the Netherlands and Sweden.
- The first 13 Colonies were established



Series of events led to the American Revolution

Political Structure in Colonies

- **New identity** was growing in the colonists' minds **due to increasing population and prosperity.**
- **Each colony had its government**, and people had a great degree of independence.
- **Navigation Act 1651: Trade law by British Parliament.**
 - **Prevented colonists from selling their most valuable products to any country except Britain.**
 - **Colonists had to pay high taxes on imported French and Dutch goods.**
- Britain's **policies benefited** both the **colonies** and the **motherland.**
- **Britain bought American raw materials for low prices**
- **Sold manufactured goods to the colonists.**

Seven-year War or French and Indian War

- **Global conflict** fought b/w **1756 and 1763.**
- **Involved every European great power** of the time and spanned five continents
- Conflict split Europe into **two coalitions:**
 - **Kingdom of Great Britain:** Including Prussia, Portugal, Hanover, and other small German states
 - **Kingdom of France:** Including the Austrian-led Holy Roman Empire, the Russian Empire, Bourbon Spain, and Sweden.
- **India's case: Regional polities with French support, tried to crush the British attempt to conquer Bengal.**
- **1754: War b/w English and French.**
 - **French colonized parts of North America** throughout the 1600s and 1700s.
- **Britain and her colonists emerged victorious**
 - **Seized nearly all French land in North America.**

No Taxation without Representation

- **Victory led to growing tensions b/w Britain and its colonists.**
- **Britain was in huge debt** due to war.
- **1765: British Parliament passed Stamp Act.**
 - **Colonists had to pay a tax to have an official stamp put on wills, deeds, newspapers, and other printed material.**
- **American colonists were outraged.**
- They had **never paid taxes directly to the British government before.**
- **Colonial lawyers argued: stamp tax violated colonists' natural rights**
- **Accused the government: "taxation without representation."**
- **Britain: citizens paid taxes as they had representation in Parliament.**
 - **Colonists had no representation in Parliament.**
 - **Thus, they argued they could not be taxed.**

Boston Tea Party

- **Hostilities b/w the two sides increased.**
- **Some colonial leaders favored independence from Britain.**

- **1773: To protest an import tax on tea, a group of colonists dumped a large load of British tea into Boston Harbour.**
- **George III, infuriated by the “Boston Tea Party,” as it was called, ordered the British navy to close the port of Boston.**

First Continental Congress

- Such **harsh tactics by the British made enemies** of many moderate colonists.
- **September 1774: Representatives from every colony except Georgia gathered** in Philadelphia to form the First Continental Congress.
- This **group protested the treatment of Boston but the king didn’t give much attention.**
- **Colonies decided to form Second Continental Congress** to debate their next move.

Second Continental Congress

- **April 19, 1775: British soldiers and American militiamen exchanged gunfire** on the village green in Lexington, Massachusetts.
- The **Second Continental Congress voted to raise an army and** organized it for battle under the command of a Virginian named George Washington.
- **The American Revolution had begun.**

Causes of the American War of Independence

Political causes of the American Revolution

- **No Representatives of Colonies in the British Parliament**
- **Resource draining of the colonies**
- The **seven years war (1756-63) drained British resources.**
- **Taxation without representation**
- **Protests:** like Boston Tea Party (1773) **Britain’s right to levy taxes was eroded over time.**
- **Power was assumed by respective local governments.**

Economic causes of the American Revolution

- **England’s policies prevented the economic development of colonies.**
- **Laws were enacted to use only British ships** for international trade.
- **Export limitations:** products like tobacco, sugar and cotton only be exported to England.
- **Heavy import duties** for products from other colonies and outside England.
- **Restrictions on Industrialisation:** Development of industries like iron, steel and textiles were prohibited in the colonies.
- **Stamp duty under stamp act** of 1765 made it mandatory to affix stamps on every legal document leading to widespread protest, many of them turning violent.
- **Rent:** Aristocrats from England bought most of the land in North America and they got high rents from farmers.
- British attempts to levy taxes led to protests like the **Boston Tea Party.**

Ideological causes of the American Revolution

- **Enlightenment philosophers** like Locke, Harrington and Milton caught the popular imagination.